clarke college
COURIER

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Cammie Dean says 'timing is right' to move on

ali herbst
staff writer

Goodbyes are never easy and for Clarke; saying goodbye to Cammie Dean, director of Student Life, will be more than difficult.

Dean has been a part of the Clarke community for 12 years, working her first nine as the director of Multicultural Student Services, and the past few in her current position. Dean's responsibilities extend far beyond her title. She oversees Residence Life and the Multicultural Center, as well as being part of the retention committee, and is an international student advisor, handles student learning assessment, and also is there to help students who need encouragement.

Dean will be returning to her home state of Texas in the beginning of March. She will begin her new role as assistant director of Orientation and Student Development at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, just miles from her hometown of Fort Worth, where much of her family is still located.

"It all seemed to come together," said Dean. "I have been re-connecting with old friends, and it will be nice to be around my parents, who are getting older. I was given a great opportunity, and the timing just felt right."

When Dean first came to Clarke, she was unsure of what to expect. She found the BVMs' pioneer spirit to be inspiring, and enjoyed their sense of independence. She said that the BVMs are "strong, focused, devoted women" and this aspect of Clarke is one of the most meaningful parts of her experience here.

Cammie Dean (back left) attending a Dubuque NAACP Banquet

Dean said her proudest moments are those when cultural exchange is occurring. She enjoys the moments that include students connecting through sharing their culture with one another.

"It makes me proud to see students sharing something culturally important to them with their peers, and to watch their peers learn from them," said Dean. "There is something special that happens in those moments of connection."

Between organizing and deciding what should go with her and what needs to stay behind, preparing to leave has been hard for Dean. Also difficult for her is moving her daughter, Viola, now age 12, to a new location.

"My daughter learned to walk in Mary Josita Hall, to talk in Mary Ben," Dean said with a smile. "She has grown up here. She could give the tours, and I think she even has once."

With four going away parties being held in her honor, Dean will remain very busy in her last couple weeks in Dubuque. Clarke's party to celebrate Dean and all that she has done will be at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Lounge on Tuesday, February 24.

Dean's close relationships with the faculty, community and students are apparent, and she has touched the lives of those she has known.

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Stimulus boost means more aid money

kylee miller
sports editor

The recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is laying the groundwork for making college more affordable. The act is a significant boost in financial aid.

Approximately 200 Clarke Students can look forward to a 37 percent increase in their Pell Grant Scholarships in the fall. The Recovery Act allows for and additional $500-$5,300 to be awarded. "College is a major investment." Said Amy Norton, assistant director of Financial Aid at Clarke. "Any help our students can get is great."

The Act also allows for a $2,500 tax credit and $409 million nationwide for work-study. "Any additional grant money a student can get is always welcome since those are funds that don't need to be repaid." Norton said.

To promote Financial Aid Awareness Month, the Clarke Financial Aid office last week sponsored Puzzle of Fortune, a contest created by Financial Liaison Heather Norris from Iowa Student Loan. The game, with a design similar to Wheel of Fortune, pitted girls against guys. The educational game teaches students the different terms used in financial aid as well as the difference between loans and grants.

Nearly 96 percent of Clarke students require some sort of financial aid to fund their education.

How do you know if you qualify for any type of financial aid? Fill out the Free Application For Student Assistance (FAFSA). Returning students need to fill out a FAFSA every year. Those who do not will not be eligible for any state or federal aid, including student loans. The federal deadline for the FAFSA is June 30, but filling out the forms by Clarke's early deadline, March 13 could lead to a bonus. The Financial Aid office is having a drawing for prizes to the bookstore and Best Buy for those who submit the FAFSA early.

"The most important thing is to have all of the information you will need in front of you when you are filling out the FAFSA," Norton said. This includes your personal pin number. "I would recommend going to http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/ and clicking on 'Before Beginning a FAFSA' which will help you get organized before you actually fill out the FAFSA online."

Spring Formal Reimagined

brenden west
staff writer

There will not be a Spring Formal this year," said Kayla Demmer, president of CREATE, "To put it simply, it has lost its formality." She went on to mention that liability has become an issue. "We don't want to portray a negative image of Clarke."

The latest spice in Kayla's busy life, is of course the rumors surrounding the cancellation of this year's Spring Formal, an annual Clarke tradition. But never fear, students of Clarke, because the CREATE president is ready to fill the void. "There will be a dance this spring," she added. No rumors here. A date has been set, March 14, and the required on campus location is booked. "The dining hall will host this event," said Demmer. "We think that this will bring about elegance that makes these sorts of things so fun. We have a lot of great ideas for this! It should be really exciting and I hope the students will give it a chance! We're picturing a more elegant sort of dance, compared to what Formal had become. We want to set a new tone, a new atmosphere."

Continued on Page 7

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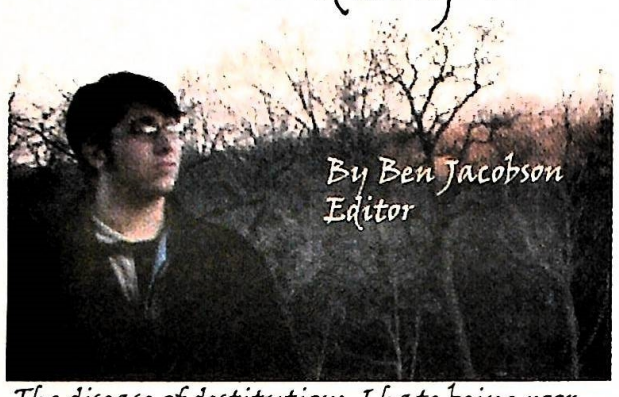
I disagree



The disease of destitution: I hate being poor

I'd like to talk about a serious, personal issue this week. For the past four years, I've been struggling with a rather grave condition. This affliction is fairly common among people my age and has been sorely underrepresented in the media, with showboats like bird flu and AIDS hogging all the attention. I have been diagnosed with being desperately poor, a condition that has been proven to destroy more lives than AIDS, bird flu and Michael Moore movies combined; although there is a very good chance I made that statistic up.

The experts say my condition is not terminal, but it has led to a significant drop in quality of life. I was first diagnosed with being poor during my freshman year of college by my bank, Wells Fargo. The bank became aware of my condition when I overdrew my account by 14 cents. Wells Fargo, showing immense concern for my financial well-being, charged me $30, which is currently the accepted treatment for not having any money.

But despite the bank's best efforts, my money problem continued to get worse. Sure, Wells Fargo tried additional treatments like charging me for not having enough money to pay the fee they charged me for not having enough money or giving my name, number and a DNA sample to incredibly ambitious collections people who are currently holding my grandmother hostage, but I am still very poor.

I don't remember having much money back in high school, but I didn't really feel poor then. Whenever a financial need would come up, I would casually mention it around my parents who would occasionally get into arguments over who got to give me money, presumably in an effort to buy my affection. Now, whenever I need some cash, my old technique no longer works. My family always starts muttering something that sounds like "$20,000 a year for college and now he wants five bucks for tacos?" Sometimes they cry.

I've tried self-medicating my condition by getting a job, which apparently has worked for some people in the past. But it hasn't really helped me as the jobs I am qualified for are the same jobs that 16-year-old kids are qualified for, and they are willing to work for very little money. I figure with the hours I work and the money I make, I will have earned enough to be out of debt in approximately a really, really, really long time, and I'm not sure if my grandmother can last that long. She's got to be running low on Werther's Originals.

Who watches 'The Watchmen'? This guy sure will

dave tucker
editor

If the enormous success of "The Dark Knight" has taught us anything, it is that movie-goers are finally ready and willing to take the "comic book-movie" seriously. The box-office numbers, as well as an overwhelming amount of critical praise, have shown that a well-crafted, emotional story can be told, even if its protagonists are running around in capes and masks punching each other.

With that in mind, I speak to all of those caught up in last summer's Bat-opus when I say, "You haven't seen anything yet..."

On March 6, fan boys everywhere will be lined up around the block to see the adaptation of THE greatest graphic novel of all time. (Of course, this statement is subjective, but how many other comic books have appeared on "Time" magazine's" list of the 100 greatest works of literature ?)

Originally published in 1986, the 12-issue series entitled "Watchmen" is the brainchild of eccentric writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons. Immediately praised for its complex, multi-level storyline, and mature subject matter, "Watchmen" showed the world that comic books can say just as much as some of the greatest works of literature.

Why is this film important? Considering that the average person has never even heard of the source material, "Watchmen" doesn't have the instant name recognition of "Spider Man" or "Batman." However, that works in the movie's favor.

"Watchmen" is a dark, violent, adult take on real-life crime fighters living in an alternate '80s era where Nixon is in his third term and costumed heroes have been outlawed. The world is in a constant state of paranoia, and the threat of nuclear war grows greater by the day. Meanwhile, someone has begun to murder former crime fighters, and the remaining few must band together to unwrap the conspiracy before the impending doomsday clock strikes midnight. Simply put, this isn't Tobey MaGuire swinging between buildings and dancing in the street.

My trust is in director Zack Snyder, as he has already proved he can craft beautiful imagery with his previous Spartan-epic, "300," (also a comic book adaptation, so at least he's a fan...) Still, "Watchmen" is so much more than a superhero movie, it's easy to see why many fans are worried that the director's style-over substance approach could tarnish the subtle complexity of the source material. That being said, at least the material is already written and the groundwork already laid. All that is left is to bring it to life.

With less than a month away from its release, the Holy Grail of comic books will finally reach an audience outside of its original demographic. And with years of false

recent legal issues, the comic that it's original creator dubbed as being "unfilmable" will finally hit the screen.

So, go ahead, ask me what I'll be doing on March 6.

Clarke selected for service-learning honor

The Corporation for National and Community Service has awarded Clarke a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

"Each year, it is humbling to see the dedication our students, faculty and staff bring as they serve in our own community, throughout our country and around the world," said Clarke President Joanne Burrows. "Service has been central to the Clarke experience throughout its history, and we are honored to join the list of leaders in this area."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to civic service-learning. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Last year, Clarke students contributed over 18,000 hours of service in a variety of projects. Among the college's most high-profile service activities is Into the Streets – a service day held twice each year in which over 200 participants regularly engage in service throughout the Dubuque community.

Service is also interwoven into the curriculum at Clarke. A team of students and faculty from the Clarke education department traveled to Quito, Ecuador, last May to serve at Centro Muchacho Trabajador (the Working Boys Center), helping Ecuadorian teachers incorporate new teaching techniques into their daily work and also providing them with much-needed supplies.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service learning and volunteering to college students In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to the Corporation's Volunteering in America 2007 study. The corporation is working with a coalition of federal agencies, colleges and student associations to expand campus incentives for service and to promote higher levels of volunteering by America's college students.

For more information, go to www.nationalservice.gov.

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The Courier is a student-produced newspaper for the Clarke community. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions for the faculty, staff or administration of the college. The Courier welcomes input from members of the Clarke Community. Please send comments to MS 1801, Clarke College. Letters must be signed and may be edited for content and length.

Feb. 19, 2009

Picking the jac

tina fry
extras editor

The Lottery: Two little words that conjure up pictures of wealth and incredible luck that drive thousands of Americans to purchase tickets hoping to win big. But what about a different kind of lottery that doesn't reward with money, but rather with something a little more important: a place to live. The Clarke College room lottery is almost here.

This event will take place on Wednesday, February 25, in the SAC from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. If students are unable to be in the SAC when the number for their room is selected, they can have a friend be their proxy for them, as long as they have a signed note.

Sean Bradley

kylee miller
sports editor

Students l during Div

elaine miller
staff writer

Clarke College hosted Diversity Days, a where students of all races get tog talk to each other and learn about eac backgrounds and cultures. They also meet t great time getting to know other students on "I think diversity is important to Clarke there are so many different cultures, back and beliefs on campus," said Callie Cram. "W them need to be accepting of differences and more about each person as an individual. Clarke more open to all sorts of people and about seven American students and seven int students met and held a panel about their culture, and life before coming to Clarke. After continued to play cultural-based games, su a piece of candy with chopsticks, do an Iris It was amazing to learn so much about o people who are here, and how far they have Cram. "Learning new things you wou unless you met someone new, it is an e on its own! All of us are different a thing to journey through s

Picking the jackpot: A beginner's guide to the room lottery

tina fry
extras editor

The Lottery: Two little words that conjure up pictures of wealth and incredible luck that drive thousands of Americans to purchase tickets hoping to win big. But what about a different kind of lottery that doesn't reward with money, but rather with something a little more important: a place to live. The Clarke College room lottery is almost here.

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To prepare for the lottery, every student living on campus must go to the Residence Life Office (located in the tunnel connecting Mary Ben to Mary Jo) to either pick up a lottery number or to sign up to keep the same room. Even students living in the apartments must pick up a number. The numbers are based on your year and number of credits (essentially, seniority based). The numbers can be picked up on Monday, February 23, or Tuesday, February 24 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This is also the time to sign up to have the same room that you lived in this year, if this is what you want.

After hearing about this seemingly complicated process, some students may wonder what the point of the lottery is. According to Kylee Miller, freshman communication major, "There are some rooms that are bigger than others, such as corner rooms. The main point is to upgrade your living space."

Even though the lottery process may seem a bit overwhelming, Stephanie Hilbrand, residence director, says "The main thing for freshmen to do is to not worry too much. It's really not as bad as you think. The lottery only takes an hour and a half; just be sure to be in the SAC at the time when your number is to be called."

Room Roulette

Wednesday, February 25
Student Activity Center

8-8:15 p.m: Numbers 1-75

8:15-8:30 p.m: Numbers 76-150

8:30-8:45 p.m: Numbers 151-225

8:45-9 p.m: Numbers 226-300

9-9:15 p.m: Numbers 301-351

9:15-9:30 p.m: Numbers 352-400

Sean Bradley 'adds' mathematical perspective to life

kylee miller
sports editor

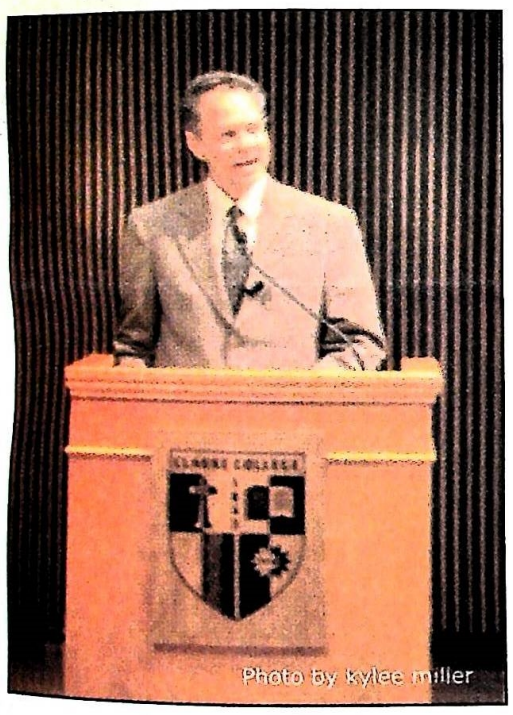


Photo by kylee miller

If you think you've found a pattern, you might have stopped looking too soon." Clarke mathematics professor Sean Bradley said as he explained a common pattern used in math. Patterns in life are often what make our culture different from others, which was a major theme for this year's Mack-in-Mailander faculty lecture.

"Have you ever become aware of the boundaries around you?" Bradley asked. He spoke of the boundaries our culture places on us.

He has had the unique perspective of being a member of the Peace Corps and teaching in Sierra Leone. Even the cultures there were extremely aware of what separated them. Bradley was impressed with his time in the Corps, so much so that in 2002 he took a year off from Clarke and with his family traveled to American Samoa to live and teach.

"The biggest gift was to see our American life from the outside," Bradley said, "looking at things from the 'top of the hill' made any question fair game." Questions like, "What do I really need or what do I just want."

> "I was looking at the world as a plane, when I should have been looking at it as a sphere."

Bradley also encouraged Clarke students to join the Peace Corps, "Could there be a better time with the economy being the way it is?" Service to others is important. According to Bradley it is how we can step back and see the world much more clearly.

We move to the outside to look in on our culture. The world can't always be looked at in the same way. That's why the entire world can be a classroom to Bradley and to others.

Going back to his original math pattern metaphor, Bradley said, "I was looking at the world as a plane, when I should have been looking at it as a sphere."

Freshman physical therapy major Elijah Wedwick was among many students who enjoyed the lecture. "It was a great speech," she said. "His stories were really engaging."

Students learn about other cultures during Diversity Days at Clarke

elaine miller
staff writer

Clarke College hosted Diversity Days, an event where students of all races get together to talk to each other and learn about each other's backgrounds and cultures. They also meet to have a great time getting to know other students on campus.

"I think diversity is important to Clarke because there are so many different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs on campus," said Callie Cram. "We as students need to be accepting of differences and to know more about each person as an individual. It makes Clarke more open to all sorts of people and cultures."

About seven American students and seven international students met and held a panel about their heritage, culture, and life before coming to Clarke. After the panel they continued to play cultural-based games, such as pick up a piece of candy with chopsticks, do an Irish jig, etc.

"It was amazing to learn so much about other individuals who are here, and how far they have traveled," said Cram, "Learning new things you would never know unless you met someone new, it is an experience all on its own! All of us are different and it's a wonderful thing to journey through someone else's life."

Photo by kylee miller

Students try to grab themselves some candy using chopsticks at Clarke's Diversity Days.

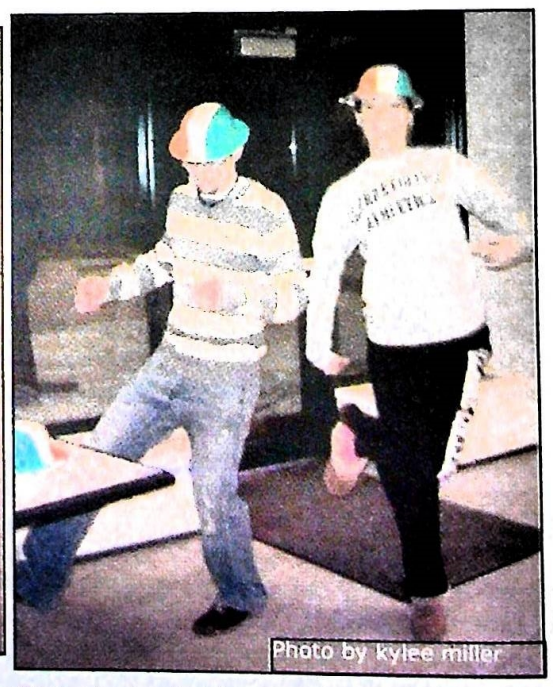


Photo by kylee miller

Two students dance an Irish jig, demonstrating cultural diversity.

Kent Anderson is ordained as Episcopal priest

heather haas
staff writer

Being ordained as an Episcopal priest has changed Clarke philosophy professor Kent Anderson in several ways. He said he spends more time in prayer than he used to, and spends more time reading spiritual literature. Anderson was ordained as an Episcopal priest last Dec. 13, and is now serving as a volunteer assistant priest at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dubuque.

Although Anderson was recently ordained, his journey began years ago. "I've had a sense of calling over the last 15 years," he said. He began the process eight years ago as he started to meet and talk with members of his church. "You need to ask yourself, and ask others, to see if they sense it too," he said. He also met with his priest, and eventually the bishop and the diocese in order to ensure that his intentions were true. "It is something that takes time, it takes prayer," Anderson said. "It's about being in dialogue with others in your community."

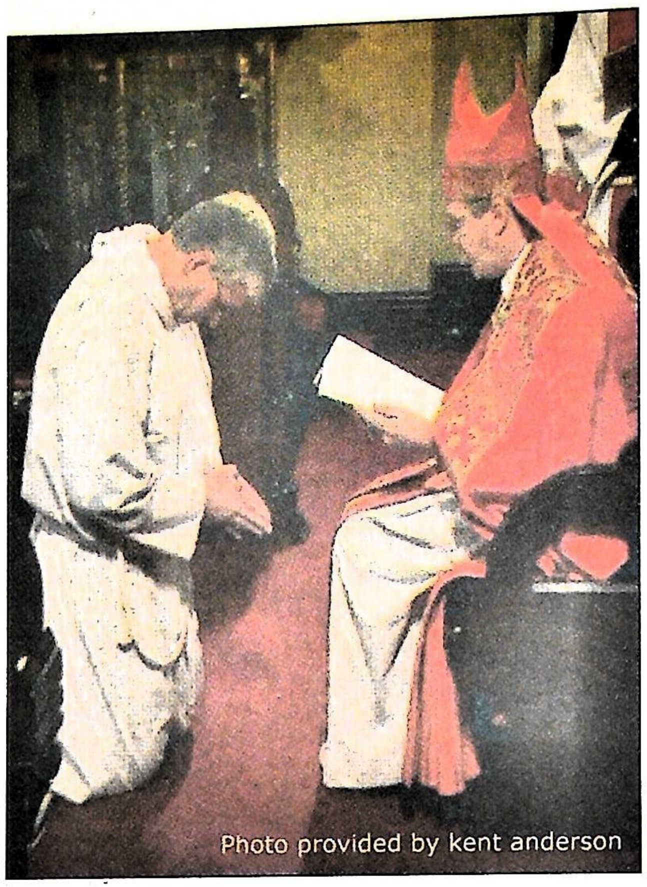


Photo provided by kent anderson

Importantly, his experience has affected others as well. Tom Riley, a fellow professor of philosophy at Clarke, feels inspired by Anderson's journey.

"Kent has always been one of the best teachers on campus, but this goes beyond being a great teacher," Riley said. "I think his ordination and what he had to do to be ordained underline his commitment to the spiritual values that are a cornerstone of the mission of the college."

Norm Freund, chair of the philosophy department, has also been affected by Kent's spiritual journey. "It has been my privilege to have served at Clarke with Kent Anderson for these past 20 years," said Freund. "In that time we have not only journeyed together as colleagues but as spiritual travelers on multiple Christian Experience Weekends as well."

Anderson is currently serving as a chaplain intern at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City and is there many weekends. He started this program in the fall and it ends in May. There are seven chaplains on staff along a variety of clergy.

"I consider it a privilege to preside at the Eucharistic celebration - to be the celebrant at a communion service," Anderson said. "It brings us together as a Christian community, it reminds us of God's redemptive history, and it assures us that the Word made flesh is with us here today. The veil between this world and the next is quite thin there."

In addition, Anderson helps with soup kitchens and youth groups in Dubuque. He said in the future he would like to get more involved with campus ministry and spend more time volunteering.

"I think we are all on this journey," said Anderson. As he has traveled and continues to travel on his journey in life, Anderson said he has been constantly supported. His wife and children have been there for him, but he has also received support from his "church family," and many people at Clarke.

"I have been able to grow in my life of faith because of how the BVMs model their spirit," Anderson said. "It has informed my faith."

Joel Smith 'believes in magic . . .'

justin curry
arts etc. editor

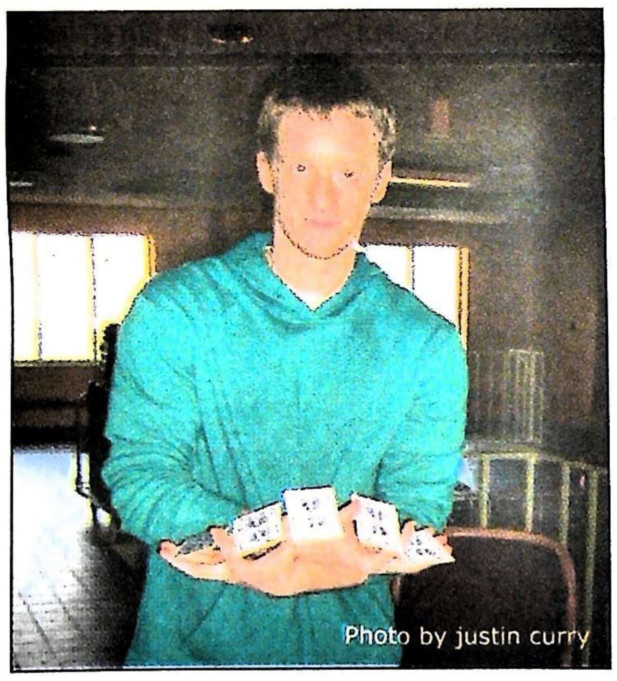


Photo by justin curry

My jaw dropped and I jumped up in astonishment. What seemed to be a failed card trick turned into one of the most amazing tricks I have ever seen. Joel Smith, a Clarke junior majoring in sports management, appears to be one of the quietest students at Clarke.

"He turns into a different guy with a deck of cards in his hand," said Mary Ellen Herbst, the front desk receptionist.

> "His slight of hand rivals that of the legendary David Copperfield."

Joel always liked magic as a kid, the first time he saw magic was a show at Adventureland, located in Des Moines. "When I was 10 I started playing with small magic kits and stuff like that, I really didn't get into magic until I was 15," Joel said. "In high school I was a basketball fanatic but I had injuries, so on my down time I practiced magic and that's when I got really good." When Joel was 15 he practiced magic for about two to three hours a day but now with his college school load he practices about three to four hours a week. "I started learning magic through books but I am mostly self taught, I did get some help from friends" Joel said.

Joel does close-up magic, which consists of card tricks, coins and ropes. "I'm not really outgoing about it; I don't do magic on stages, mostly in front of small groups," he said. "But I have done shows for my church and at a special education school my aunt works at."

"His slight of hand rivals that of the legendary David Copperfield," says Andy Bishop, Sophomore major in English and math. While everyone is not watching Joel do magic tricks, Joel likes to watch Jason Latimer do magic, he won the title of "Grand Prix 'Best Overall' World Champion of Magic. "He is very resourceful and creative" said Joel.

Besides magic, Joel likes to hang out with his friends on campus and play pool. His friend, Bryndon Paulsen, Junior Kinesiology major, believes that Joel's magic surpasses cards and coins. "I can't beat Joel in anything because he uses magic" says Bryndon.

When asked if he believes in magic Joel just smirks, "I believe in magic as an art form."

Students head to Cincinnati on Spring Break

heather haas
staff writer

Taking time to help those in need: Clarke students off to Cincinnati for Spring Break. For some students, spring break means planning a trip and taking off to enjoy a week full of rest and relaxation. For others, serving those less fortunate allows them the opportunity to help those in need. A group of seven Clarke students, one faculty member, and Army Golm, BVM, director of Campus Ministry will be doing exactly that. The group will be spending their spring break in Cincinnati on a service trip.

While looking around for a location to work Clarke came upon the agency Franciscans for the Poor which had an opening and the details seemed ideal. "Their mission is to provide mission experience for college students and church groups," Golm said. The agency has been helpful in that they planned for the site locations, took care of meals, and have arranged for the group to stay at the Tau House, an old convent located in the inner city of Cincinnati.

The group will be helping at a variety of sites and their specific locations are not yet known, but they are expecting to help at food pantries, soup kitchens, and construction sites, and they may also be spending time with the elderly. These sites are within the urban areas of Cincinnati and Golm also said they may have a chance to travel into rural Appalachian parts of Kentucky.

Part of the funding provided for this service trip comes from the Barbara Kutchera Award. Kutchera was a BVM who taught at Clarke. From 1964 to 1992 Kutchera taught in both the Education and English departments. After her death, family and friends established an award in her honor. She was passionate about social justice, therefore half of the money from this award is used for service trips, and the other half goes toward scholarships.

To help learn more about social challenges and responding to the poor, the group will be meeting weekly until they leave in order to prepare for their week of service. During these weekly meetings the group will be focusing on prayer, team building, trip details and each week they will be educated on a specific topic. "Each week we journal in reflection on the education topic and then discuss what we are thinking about it," Golm said.

www.wirelesstechchat.com

Feb. 19, 2009

'The Wrestler': Comeback of a lifetime

aaron rhomberg
staff writer

This movie can be described as powerful and moving. It shows audiences what a great film should be like. "The Wrestler" is not just about wrestling; it's about how even those who seem invincible can be at their lowest point. Mickey Rourke gives a performance that earned him a Golden Globe and has a good shot at winning the Oscar.

Rourke plays a 1980s professional wrestler named Randy "The Ram" Robinson, who used to headline major events in his heyday, but now performs in small venues such as high school gyms.

Despite the small arenas he headlines, he is still a crowd favorite. In addition, the thrill of performing in front of the crowds makes Robinson feel as he is still the best wrestler in the business. However, after one match he has a mild heart attack and is told that if he wrestles again, it could mean losing his life. He then gets a full-time job working at a local grocery store deli.

Once he retires from wrestling, Robinson tries to reconcile with his estranged daughter. Stephanie, played by Rachel Evan Wood. Her performance, while brief, adds complexity to Rourke's Robinson. Marisa Tomei plays Cassidy, a dancer who is attracted to Robinson and is able to see past his rough exterior and give him the companionship he is seeking. However, when Robinson is offered a rematch with his rival "The Ayatollah" to celebrate the historical match 20 years ago, he does so even if he risks his life for one more shot at glory.

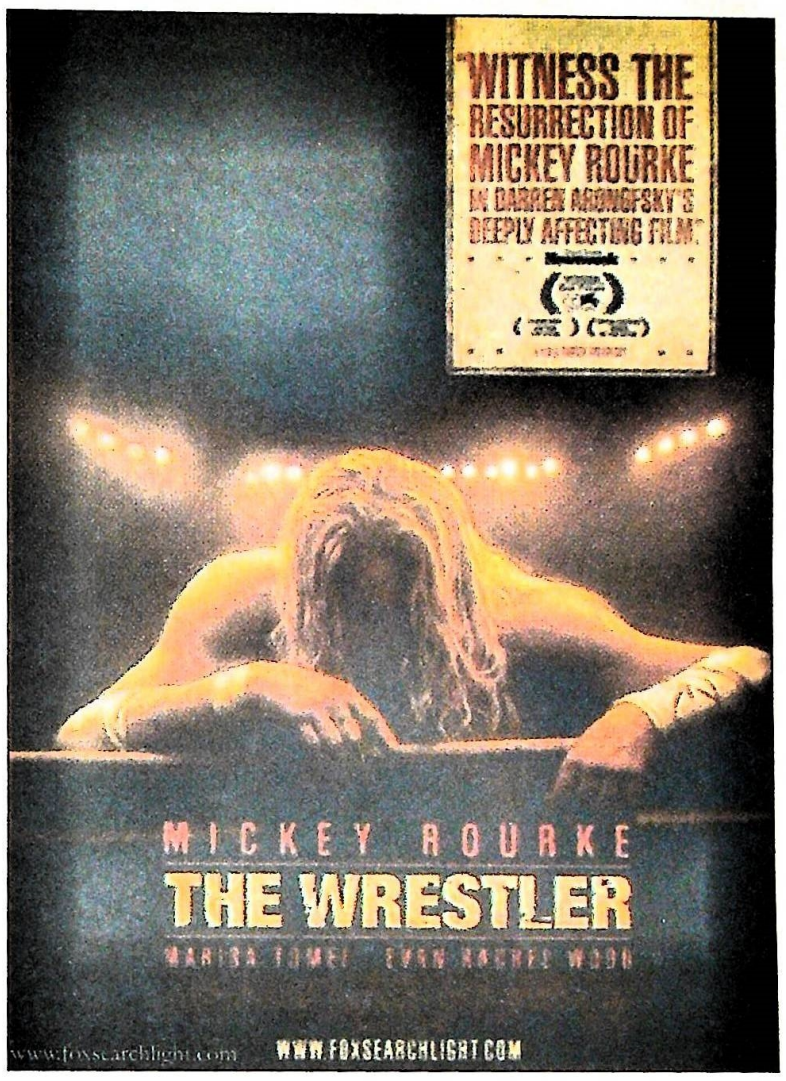
What Worked: One of the best aspects of this picture is seeing Mickey Rourke; he is able to add depth and complexity to the role of a professional wrestler who continues with his career despite being past his prime. The audience witnesses the reality of how painful it is for someone to give up a dream. They also see first hand the aftermath of his matches when he is being stitched up. He continues to wrestle because in his mind he views the fans as the only family who will accept him.

Another example of incredible film making is his relationships with Stephanie, and Cassidy. With Stephanie, he is a father who desperately tries to reconnect and get back on track. However, with Cassidy, Robinson looks to her not only for advice on how to get back into his daughter's life, but also as a person who could possibly bring him peace.

Director Darren Aronofsky tells a story of resurrection that will go down as a great character study for future movies.

What didn't work: There were only a few minor problems with the film. It appears to be shot with a hand-held camera, which some directors use in order to make the audience feel this story is believable. At times the camera bounces around too much and it becomes quite distracting.

Overall: This is a film that shows you different sides of a character and could possibly move you to tears. Mickey Rourke as Randy Robinson is able to turn his career around and show us why we care for him in the movie. Rating: 10/10.



The Fray stays consistent with its sophomore album

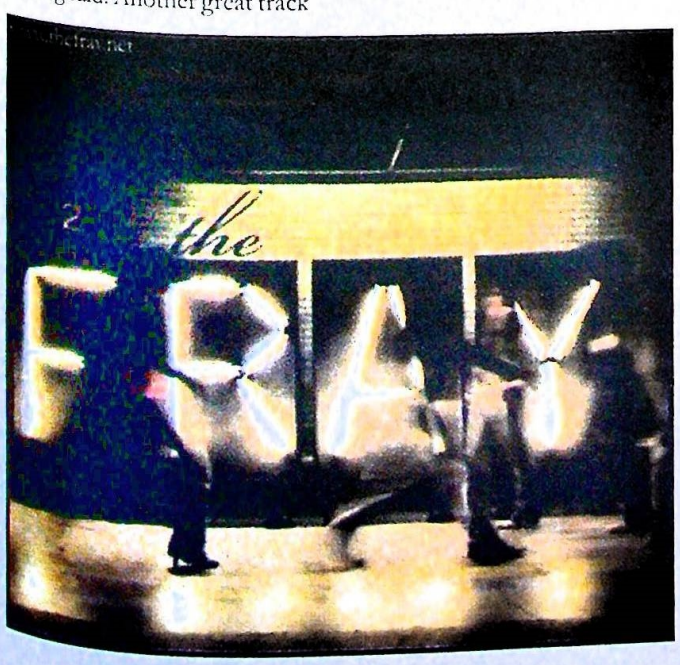
aaron rhomberg
staff writer

It has been four years since The Fray's debut album "How to Save a Life." Since that time the music industry has undergone drastic changes. Some artists try to change their style and quality of music. However, with the release of their self-titled sophomore album, The Fray shows listeners why they will be the same band as when they broke out in 2005.

The album has many high points and barely any low ones. The lead single "You Found Me" is the kind of song you can put in, listen to the first 30 seconds, and think the CD could be full of gems.

"Say When" is a song that has a great tempo and pace to connect with the listeners while the message being said. Another great track that keeps the pace of the album fast and upbeat is the song "Where the Story Ends," which grabs the listener with piano hook with the fast pace. Finally, a track that has a good club feel is the track "We Build Then We Break" that not only has a great beat, but enticing lyrics that are hard to resist.

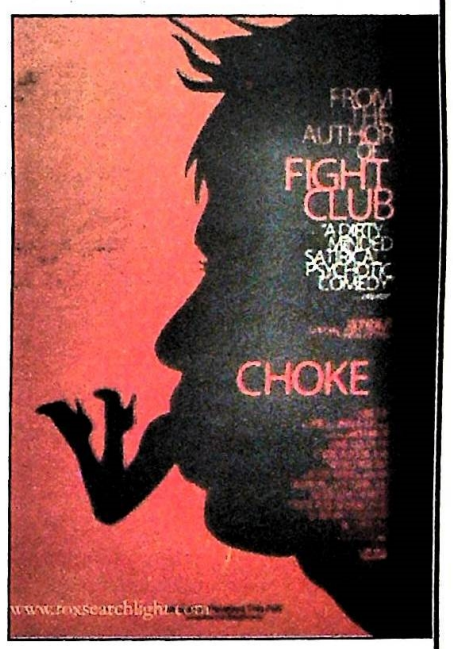
The only problem with the album is its length. The CD only has 10 tracks and this makes it feel rushed. The follow up to The Fray's 2005 album is a great companion piece that will expose them to new fans, while original fans will get to experience why the group took awhile to make an incredible album. Rating: 8/10



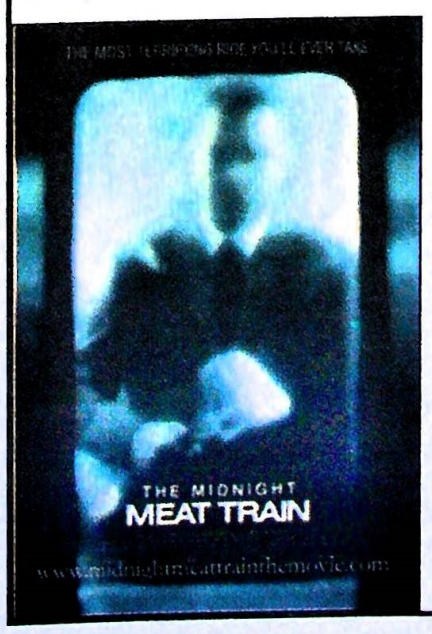
Now on DVD

dave tucker
editor

CHOKE: This is the second adaptation from "Fight Club" author Chuck Palahniuk, and while "Choke" is actually my favorite novel, director Clark Gregg ultimately left out a lot of what makes the book so great. However, a movie should be able to stand alone, and not be compared to source material. In that respect, "Choke" succeeds, making it an intelligent, perverse, dramatic comedy, complete with the author's always-present social satire and anarchist undertones. Sam Rockwell is perfectly cast as Victor, a sexually-addicted med school dropout, paying for his dying mother's hospital care by conning restaurant patrons into "saving his life" after he repeatedly chokes on food. He also may be the second coming of Christ. Or at least a half clone. I loved this when I first saw it, but upon second viewing, all I could see were the missing pieces. I recommend the movie, but if you have some time on your hands, I recommend the book more.



RELIGULOUS: Always controversial Bill Maher sets his sights on organized religion and doesn't stop until he's out of ammo in this intelligent, all be it offensive, documentary. Posing timeless questions like, "Why have faith without proof?" or "Why doesn't Jesus simply destroy Satan?" Maher travels across the globe speaking to everyone from state senators to Christian Scientists. This DVD embodies the phrase, "not for everyone," but it certainly poses some interesting questions, liable to start a debate between viewers, and that is exactly what Maher intends.



MIDNIGHT MEAT TRAIN: If the title to this recent Clive Barker adaptation doesn't catch your attention, then you've been desensitized by the slew of recent horror flicks, (and if I'm not yet, then you aren't either). This grisly gem, crafted by the creator of the masterful "Hellraiser," and "Candyman" films, is the perfect example of the midnight movie. You know, the type of flick that you go to the video store, (yes, I still say "video") having heard nothing about it, but end up being blown away at the raw, unapologetic display of good-old fashion horror you just witnessed. The story revolves around an up-and-coming photographer who stumbles upon a slew of vicious killings on the New York subway train. If I had seen this film ten years ago, it would have been a staple at every slee over I attended. Yeah, I was a weird kid.

Feb. 19, 2009

Taking a closer look at Oscar's four most nominated films

lacey reynolds
campus life editor

If you took the time to read our last issue's review of "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," (and if you didn't, feel guilty, and read it asap) you may not be at all enticed to see it or maybe you can't wait to see it so you can tally up the similarities between it and "Forrest Gump" for yourself. Or maybe you've already seen it and despised it, or I suppose there is the chance that you may have seen it and actually enjoyed it. If you are in the latter category, you are not alone; you have an unusual idea of entertainment, but, nevertheless, you are not alone. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" has received 13 total Oscar nominations, the most nominations for one film this year. Brad Pitt was nominated for best actor, which leads me to believe that the majority of voters this year were a group of desperate females who think they find real talent hidden beneath his baby blues.

Next in line for most nominations is "Slumdog Millionaire," a film about an 18-year-old from the Indian slums who competes on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and is suspected of cheating when he seems to know too much for his background. I have not seen this film, but, based on the nominations it received, I would guess the movie is worth watching simply to please your ears. "Slumdog Millionaire" received ten nominations overall, with five of them relating to the sound quality in the film, including best sound editing, best sound mixing and three separate nominations for achievement in best music.

I personally found it surprising that "The Dark Knight" only received eight nominations. I am by no means a fan of comic book films, and, thanks to Stephen King's 1990s film "It," I am horribly terrified of clowns so I was less than thrilled to watch a film in which one of the main characters is an evil man with a demonic, deformed clown face. But, despite my apprehensions going into the viewing, I was left speechless (which is saying a lot) by the end. I very rarely use the terms "best" or "worst" unless I feel that something is truly worthy of them. "The Dark Knight" is more than worthy. It was the best movie I have seen in terms of so many elements of a single film being done so well. The media has covered Heath Ledger's story over and over, but I cannot let that cause me to ignore his great acting in this film. I can't count the number of times I physically shuddered under the blanket (yes, I kept a blanket near in case I needed to hide beneath it) from his creepy voice and mysteriously terrifying way of chewing on his own mouth in between his raspy, threatening words.

"Milk," starring the brilliant Sean Penn, tied "The Dark Knight" with eight nominations. "Milk" is about a gay camera store owner in the 1970s who campaigns for a political position that will make him the first openly gay man in public office. I have not seen this film, but based on Penn's previous performances, I imagine we might see him walk away with an Oscar. The film is also up for best picture of the year against "Slumdog Millionaire" and our beloved "Benjamin Button."

And for those of you who don't care to know the difference between an Oscar statuette and the Statue of Liberty, I suggest you at least tune in to ABC on Sunday, Feb. 22 to see the star of "Australia" (nominated for best costume design) and "People" magazine's 2008 sexiest man alive, Hugh Jackman, host the event. Even if your favorite movie doesn't win a single Oscar, or you haven't even heard of the nominated films, or you just don't care, you can always count on Hugh. The least you can do when the Oscars air at 7 p.m. on Sunday (yes, guys too) is hit the mute button and watch his pretty lips move, right?

Oscar Tidbits

•He is the most recognized trophy in the world.

•He is officially named the Academy Award of Merit.

•He is a knight standing on a reel of film gripping a crusader's sword.

•Oscar stands 13 ½ inches tall and weighs 8 ½ pounds.

•The film reel that Oscar stands on features five branches of the Academy: actors, directors, producers, technicians, and writers.

•Oscar is made of a pewter-like alloy plated in copper, nickel silver, and 24-karat gold.

•Due to a metal shortage during WWII, Oscars were made of painted plaster for three years. Recipients could later redeem them for gold-plated ones.

•It is unsure of where Oscar got his name, but it is believed that the Academy librarian remarked that the statuette resembled her Uncle Oscar when she first saw it.

•The youngest person to ever recieve an Oscar was Shirley Temple; she was six.

• Walt Disney has won more Oscars than anyone else. He was nominated for 64 and won 26.

• The most Oscars ever won by a single *film* is 11. That's happened three times, with "Ben Hur," "Titanic" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

Belle of Broadway debuts at Clarke

sara prier
staff writer

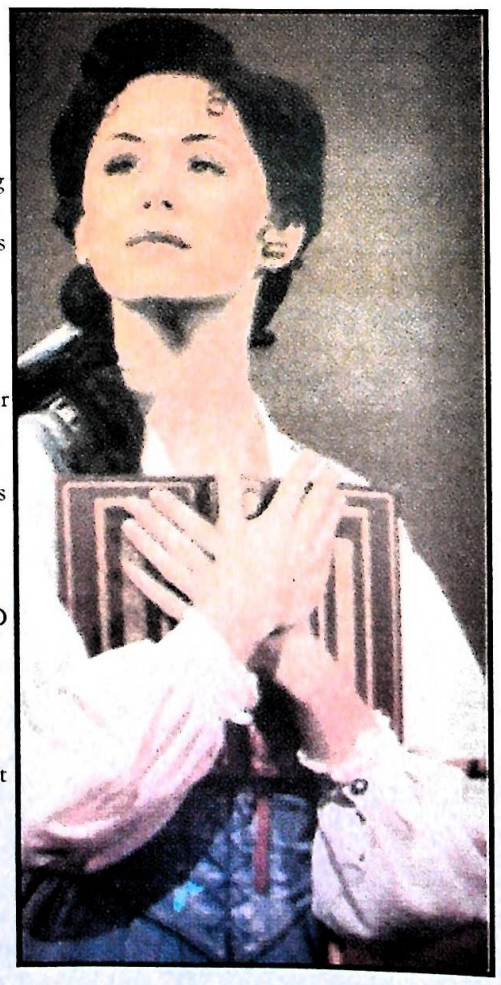
Susan Egan, America's "Belle of Broadway" is making her way to Clarke on Thursday, February 26. This accomplished actress and singer has starred in numerous performances around the nation.

Egan has starred on Broadway in "Thoroughly Modern Millie," won critical acclaim as Broadway's longest-running Sally Bowles in "Cabaret," and received Tony Awards and Drama Desk nominations for best actress as the original Belle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

Additional performances include roles in the movies "13 Going on 30" and "Gotta Kick It Up." Egan also voiced Meg in Disney's "Hercules" and Lin in "Spirited Away." Egan has guest starred in various television shows including "Drew Carey" and "NYPD Blue." She also has five solo CD's and was named best vocalist of the year by TalkinBroadway.com.

Egan will perform at 7:30 in the Terrence Donaghoe Hall. Admission is free for students, faculty and staff. Tickets for the general public can be reserved at Switchboard for $20.

Egan will also be doing a master class in Jansen Music Hall that afternoon from 1:30-3:30 p.m. for Clarke music and drama students as well as area high school students.



Clarke to present 'Two Rooms' this weekend, Feb. 19-22

The Clarke College drama department will present "Two Rooms" by Lee Blessing Thursday, Feb. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 22, in Terence Donaghoe Hall.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Feb.19- 21 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 22. Tickets are free for Clarke students and faculty, $10 for other adults, $7 for seniors and $5 for non Clarke students.

Blessing's provocative, compelling drama "Two Rooms" examines the emotional journeys taken by an American hostage being held captive in an empty room in Beirut and that of his wife who, in order to be closer to him, has recreated her husband's holding cell in the office of her own home.

Cast members include Valerie Heitzman in the role of Ellen; Erin Kane as Lainie; Gage Steenhagen as Michael; Joey Stamp as Walker; and Alison Ott as Cellist.

Clarke Assistant Professor of Drama Joe Klinebriel, is directing the show. Ellen Gabrielleschi, chair and associate professor of drama, is the technical director, scenic designer, and lighting designer.

Elizabeth Spoerl will serve as the assistant to the director and stage manager of the performance.

Baseball team speaks out against steroids

kylee miller
sports editor

I'm not shocked to find out A-Rod has taken steroids." Clarke baseball coach Chad Harris said. Most dedicated baseball fans wouldn't be surprised by the ongoing steroid abuse in the Major Leagues. Yankee third baseman Alex Rodriquez's name has been added to the list of steroid abusers. "They've lost touch with the term 'role model'," Harris said. "It's a disgrace to the game and to the fans who pay big bucks to watch teams play."

In 2003 players volunteered to be tested for drugs. The test was supposed to remain confidential and was only intended to find out the extent of drug abuse. Over 100 players tested positive. Rodriquez was positive for three different drugs, but at the time, none of them were on the Major League's banned list.

"The Major League commission said those names would remain confidential; it would be morally wrong if the commissioner went against his word," Clarke baseball player, senior Jason Kroese, said. Rodriquez has received only a verbal reprimand. His records or his chance to be admitted into the baseball Hall of Fame have not been addressed.

But the problem doesn't start nor does it end with the Majors. Five Clarke baseball players said they knew someone before coming to Clarke who used steroids.

Freshman baseball player Cory Davidson said, "It's bad now, but with all the pressure fans but on athletes, the urge to get that 'extra edge' is very tempting."

Ball players abusing steroids still won't stop baseball fans from following the sport.

Steroid abuse still won't stop dedicated fans from following the game. Coach Harris said, "I will continue to watch Major League baseball. There are players who don't cheat and who still respect the game."

The Clarke men's baseball team is committed to playing baseball fairly.

Clarke's third annual ski night was a success with nearly 100 students attending. Above CREATE President Kayla Demmer and senior Bridget Goldbeck get ready to hit the slopes at Sundown Mountain.

Clarke ski night a success

kylee miller
sports editor

I was a little scared. I hadn't been skiing since sixth grade," said sophomore Nicole Lansing. "But it was great after I got the hang of it. I actually wanted to go again the next day."

Nearly 100 students participated in Clarke's third annual ski night at Sundown Mountain sponsored by CREATE. "It's something that students look forward to every year." CREATE president Kayla Demmer said. "The night at Sundown reaches out to all types of people. Some have never been skiing or snowboarding before."

The real advantage ski night has for a student is the cost. The average cost for lift tickets alone is $39 for an adult. This doesn't include renting equipment. Clarke students get a significant discount and CREATE picks up the extra cost. This allows for even the most strung out college student to afford a night on the slopes.

Cammie Dean, continued from page 1

Kayla Demmer, junior elementary education major, who has known Dean since her freshman year, said "My favorite memory of Cammie is how we would get on random ideas or we were so busy that we would become forgetful, and she would just laugh or sigh. I will never forget the time when she shared her college years with me. Her stories opened up my eyes and made me realize that you can't have a set-in-stone plan in life, but instead you have to go with the flow and do what you know you're going to love."

"Cammie is very committed to serving students through on-campus programs and activities as well as cooking meals at her home for students during holidays and on breaks," said Kate Zanger, vice president of Student Life. "Personally, I have always respected and appreciated having Cammie's point of view on challenging issues."

"Cammie is also an important member of the team of directors in Student Life that I have the honor of supervising," said Zanger.

"She is a real idea person at a meeting. She makes positive contributions to discussions about how we can improve campus life and student satisfaction. Cammie looks at any situation from every angle, which makes her a good problem solver. She is also a good listener with a good sense of humor."

As much as the Clarke community will miss her, it is obvious that Dean's influence has left a lasting impression. Many students have asked her to stay for an extra year or two, until they have graduated.

"I feel lucky to have learned how to lead from such an intelligent and strong woman," said Abby Hefer, sophomore social work major. "I am going to miss not getting to know her better."

Dean is ready for a new chapter in her life, but is not looking forward to the moving process. The biggest difficulty for her extends beyond preparation and touches on a deeper level.

"The hardest part about leaving is the relationships that will change," said Dean. "I feel that I have developed a lot of lifelong relationships. They will have to be adjusted, but they will not end."

Spring Formal, continued from page 1

This will be a "shirt and tie" dance and Ms. Demmer is already in the process of booking the DJ among making all of the other necessary arrangements. All the while, she doesn't fail to give credit due to the rest of the CREATE members. Communication is key when planning a big dance, and many people are involved in CREATE-ing a successful event.

If anyone knows the recipe for a busy life it's Demmer, junior elementary ed major. Simply start by waking at the crack of dawn to teach, make a few calls, book a few events, run in and out of meetings, classes, spend a few hours on Google looking up new ideas for exciting campus activities, and end the day filtering through emails from students, faculty, and staff, all while fulfilling duties as a student activities intern, and Clarke Student Association Vice President. Sprinkle in the fact that she is also, the functioning president of CREATE, the foremost sponsor of most of the events that take place at Clarke (including the always enjoyable Homecoming Dance) and you have a full plate.

"I enjoy organizing events on campus because I like to see the smiles on the faces of my fellow students," says Demmer. "But it means more when students appreciate the work that goes into them." Such work includes finding caterers, renting out buildings to host events, finding a DJ, and booking the trolley, among many other things to ensure the event is a success.

It is because of this hard work that Kayla Demmer urges the students of Clarke to heed the liability issues which influenced the cancelation of Spring Formal. "Think smart, be safe, and don't take it for granted. There is a lot of work that goes into this. Keep these traditions going and allow them to be kept. We need to go into this positively and be thankful that we have a dance at all."

U.S. Post Office asks to drop a delivery day

lacey reynolds
campus life editor

The end of the world is here. The U.S. Postal Service has asked Congress to drop the requirement that it deliver mail six days a week.

What on Earth are we going to do? Well, don't freak out yet. It may not be as tragic as it seems. Contrary to what many people are saying, the Post Office will not necessarily stop delivering mail on Saturdays. Studies performed in the past support the idea of stopping delivery on a different day when mail circulation is light, such as Tuesday.

So why does the Postal Service want to deprive us of our sixth delivery day? The economy…what else? According to the their figures the mail volume was 202 billion items last year, over 9 million less than the previous year. This drop accounted for the largest single volume drop in history. The Post Office is predicting that 2009 could be the first year since 1946 that the amount of actual money collected by the Post Office declines.

Last year the Postal Service lost a total of $2.8 billion, and if the economy doesn't pick up, it could lose another $6 billion this year.

According to a study conducted by George Mason University last year, changing from a six-day to a five-day delivery service could save the Postal Service more than $1.9 billion a year. The Postal Service calculated that $3.5 billion could be saved using data from its own study.

The Postal Service has already carried out several changes in hopes of getting itself out of the red. It has reduced its work force by 120,000, delayed construction of new facilities, frozen executive salaries, and is now reducing its headquarters work force by 15 percent.

These modifications have saved the Postal Service $1 billion per year since 2002, but it seems that more changes will needed.

Things have gotten so financially difficult for the Postal Service that it has also decided to remove blue collection mailboxes that are receiving less than 25 pieces of mail per day.

Once the Postal Service has determined which boxes to remove, it will post a sign on the box two weeks before the removal to inform customers of the forthcoming change. This sign will also direct them to the nearest collection box to use in the future and provide contact information for those who seek additional information about the change.

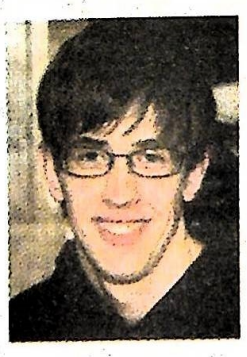
On the Street

elaine miller
staff writer

What book would you recommend to a professor and why?

Heidi Rhinehart, senior English/communication major

"Ane encyclopedia for Gary Arms because he's interested in EVERY topic and researches everything!"



Will Kelly, sophomore studio art major/writing minor

"'Paradise Lost' to Bryan Zigmont. It's a great book and if you can't read it", you're not smart."

Beatrice Shares, sophomore studio art/drama major

"'Count of Monte Cristo' for any professor, because it's a great tragedy!"

Kali Eslick, sophomore athletic training/physical therapy major

"'The Lorax' by Dr. Seuss, to all professors. To remind everyone that our resources can run out."

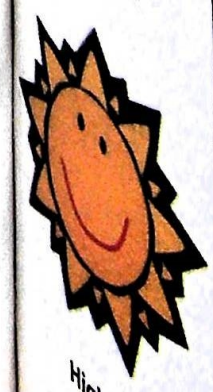
An Incoherent Mess

dave tucker
editor

Myra Benzer
She's here to help

Who watches the Watchmen?

Clarke All-American, Emily Brown competes in nationals.



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